

2020-2021 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS

DOVES

SEASON DATES: September 5 - October 28 (54 days)
November 21 - November 29 (9 days)
December 24 - January 19 (27 days)

SHOOTING

HOURS: September 5 Noon until sunset
September 6 – October 28 ½ hr. before sunrise to sunset.
November 21 - November 29 ½ hr. before sunrise to sunset.
December 24 - January 19 ½ hr. before sunrise to sunset.

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily and 45 in possession. Composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination.

RAILS, GALLINULE AND MOORHEN

SEASON DATES: September 9 - November 17 (70 days)

BAG LIMIT: Clapper/King: 15 - counted together daily, 45 poss.
Sora/Virginia: 25 - counted together daily, 75 poss.
Gallinule/Moorhen: 15 daily - counted together daily, 75 poss.

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

NOTES: - Non-Toxic shot is required for Rail, Gallinule, Moorhen and Snipe hunting in Virginia.

WOODCOCK

SEASON DATES: November 7 – November 30 (24 days)
December 24 – January 13 (21 days)

BAG LIMIT: 3 daily, 9 in possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

SNIPE

SEASON DATES: October 9 - October 12 (4 days)
October 21 - January 31 (103 days)

BAG LIMIT: 8 daily, 24 in possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

SEPTEMBER TEAL

SEASON DATES: September 17 – September 30
HUNT AREA: East of I – 95

September 21 – September 30
HUNT AREA: West of I – 95

BAG LIMIT: 6 daily, 18 in possession (Blue-winged and Green-winged teal only).
SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

DUCKS

Season Length: 60 hunting days; plus 2 Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Day

Season Dates: October 9 - 12 (Black Duck closed) (4 days)
November 18 – November 29 (12 days)
December 19 – January 31 (44 days)

October 24, February 6 – Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Days

Bag Limit: Daily Bag limit: 6 ducks of any species **except** for the following restrictions: can include no more than 2 mallards (only 1 hen), 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 eiders, 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks (except closed October 9-12), **scaup: 1/day except 2/day from January 12-31**, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck.

Closed season on harlequin duck.

The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Shooting Hours: 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

MERGANSER

Season Dates: To coincide with general duck season

Bag Limit: 5 birds daily, of which only 2 birds may be a hooded merganser (15 in possession, only 6 of which may be hooded mergansers)

AMERICAN COOT

Season Dates: To coincide with general duck season.

Bag Limit: 15 daily (45 in possession)

SEA DUCKS (SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, AND EIDER)

Season Dates: November 11 – January 9 (60 days)
In the Sea Duck Zone delineated below

Bag Limit: 5 birds per day (15 in possession), may include no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks.

*** Sea Duck Zone:** Those waters at a distance greater than 800 yards from any shore, island or emergent vegetation in the following area: the ocean waters of Virginia, the tidal waters of Northampton and Accomack Counties, and the Chesapeake Bay and each of its tributaries up to the first highway bridge. Back Bay and its tributaries are not included in the Sea Duck Zone.

Note - Sea ducks cannot be taken in the Sea Duck Zone after January 9. Sea ducks can, however, be taken during the regular duck season (Oct. 9-12, Nov. 18-29, and Dec. 19–Jan. 31) in all other areas outside of the sea duck zone (i.e.: within 800 yards of any shore, island or emergent vegetation...), since they are included in the regular season duck bag. No more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tails can be included in the regular season daily limit of 6 ducks.

SEPTEMBER CANADA GEESE

SEASON DATES: September 1 – September 25

BAG LIMIT: 10 daily, 30 in possession

HUNT AREA: Statewide

SHOOTING

HOURS:

East of I-95

September 1 – 16: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

September 17 – 25: ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.

West of I-95

September 1– 20: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

September 21 - 25: ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.

Canada Goose Populations and Hunt Zones

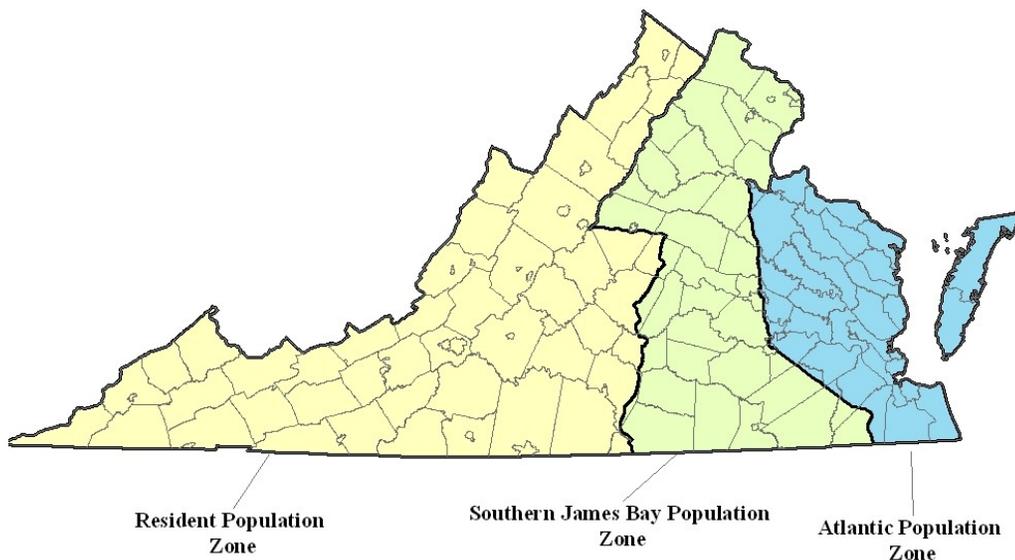
- There are 4 subpopulations of Canada geese in Virginia. These include the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (RP) along with three migrant goose populations, the North Atlantic Population (NAP), the Southern James Bay Population (SJB), and the Atlantic Population (AP). The majority of our migrant geese (~82%) are from the AP, about 18% are from the SJB, and <1% are from the NAP.
- Recent research and banding analyses have enabled us to better delineate the distribution and migration corridors used by these different subpopulations, and to establish separate hunting zones based on the percentage of migrant geese in each zone. These zones include the:

Atlantic Population (AP) Hunt Zone – The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along I-95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south to the North Carolina border.

Southern James Bay Population (SJB) Hunt Zone – The area to the west of the AP Hunt Zone boundary and east of the following line: the “Blue Ridge” (Loudoun County-Clarke County line) at the West Virginia-Virginia Border, south to Interstate 64 (the Blue Ridge line follows county borders along the western edge of Loudoun-Fauquier-Rappahannock-Madison-Greene-Albemarle and into Nelson Counties), then east along Interstate Rt. 64 to Route 15, then south along Rt. 15 to the North Carolina line.

Resident Population (RP) Hunt Zone – The portion of the state west of the SJB Hunt Zone.

Virginia's Canada Goose Hunt Zones



CANADA GEESE

ATLANTIC POPULATION ZONE: (AP)

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| <u>Season Dates:</u> | December 19 – January 1 (14 days) |
| | January 16 – January 31 (16 days) |
| <u>Bag Limit:</u> | 1 goose per day (3 in possession) |
| <u>Shooting Hours:</u> | 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily |

SOUTHERN JAMES BAY POPULATION ZONE (SJB)

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| <u>Season Dates:</u> | |
| Regular Season: | November 18 – November 29 3/day |
| | December 19 – January 14 3/day |
| Extended Season: | January 15 - February 15 5/day |
| <u>Shooting Hours:</u> | 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily |

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE: (RP)

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| <u>Season Dates:</u> | November 18 – November 29 |
| | December 19 - February 24 |
| <u>Bag Limit:</u> | 5 birds daily (15 in possession) |
| <u>Shooting Hours:</u> | 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily |

NOTE – For all seasons, specified bag limit can include White-fronted geese along with Canada geese.

LIGHT GEESE (GREATER & LESSER SNOW GEESE, AND ROSS'S GEESE)

REGULAR LIGHT GOOSE SEASON

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| <u>Season Dates:</u> | October 17 – January 31 (107 days) |
| <u>Bag Limit:</u> | 25 birds daily (no possession limit) |

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION SEASON

Conservation Order Zone: The same as the AP Canada Goose Zone - The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along I-95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south to the North Carolina border.

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| <u>Season Dates:</u> | February 1 – April 5, 2021 |
| <u>Bag Limit:</u> | No daily or possession limit |
| <u>Special Hunting Methods:</u> | Electronic calls, unplugged shotguns and extended shooting hours to one-half hour after sunset are allowed. |
| <u>Special Requirements:</u> | Hunters participating in the Conservation Order <u>must register</u> , keep a record of their harvest and participation, and return a harvest report form within two weeks following the close of the season. |

ATLANTIC BRANT

Season Dates: November 24 – November 29
December 19 - January 31

Bag Limit: 2 birds daily (6 in possession)

TUNDRA SWAN

Season Dates: November 18 - January 31

Bag Limit: One per permittee per season

Hunt Area: All counties and portions of counties east of U.S. Route I- 95 and south of the Prince William/Stafford county line in Chopawamsic Creek at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

NOTE: VDGIF will issue no more than 638 swan-hunting permits to holders of a valid Virginia hunting license. Only hunters with a valid 2020-2021 tundra swan-hunting permit issued by VDGIF shall be authorized to hunt tundra swans. Each permittee will be authorized to take one tundra swan during the season. Swan hunting permits are non-transferable and are valid for use only by the person to whom issued. Permits must be in the immediate possession of the permittee while swan hunting. Immediately at the time and place of kill, successful hunters must permanently record the month and day of kill on their permit and attach it to their swan. The VDGIF is required to obtain hunter participation and harvest information to offer this Tundra Swan hunting season. **Hunters are required to complete the tundra swan hunt questionnaire (survey) and submit their results to the Department by February 15, 2021.** Those who fail to submit their results are ineligible for future drawings.

FALCONRY

Dove: September 5 – October 28
November 21 – November 29
December 24 – January 31

Rail, Gallinule, Moorhen: September 9 – December 22

Woodcock: October 17 – January 31

Snipe: October 9 - 12
October 21 – January 31

Canada Goose: September 1 - September 25
November 18 – November 29
December 19 - February 24

September Teal: September 17 - September 30

Ducks, Mergansers, Coot: October 9- 12
November 18 – February 12

Brant and Snow Goose: October 17 – January 31